

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

1. (Currently amended) A nail clipper comprising:

a top elongated member having a top surface, a bottom surface, a pair of side surfaces connecting the top and bottom surfaces, and distal and proximal ends;

a bottom elongated member having a top surface, a bottom surface, a pair of side surfaces connecting the top and bottom surfaces, and distal and proximal ends;

a first post having a first end coupled to the top surface of the bottom elongated member adjacent the proximal end thereof and a second end located at a point above the top surface of the top elongated member, the post being located adjacent to and outwardly of a side surface of the top elongated member;

a second post having a first end and a second end, the first end of the second post being connected to the second end of the first post by a hinge, and the second end of the second post being located above the first end of the second post;

each of the proximal ends of the top and bottom members having a cutting edge disposed in opposing nail clipping relationship;

a lever having a bottom surface coupled to the second end of the second post, the lever disposed and adapted to cause movement of the cutting edges between a cutting position and non-cutting position; and

a bumper disposed on the bottom surface of the bottom member, the bumper having an edge disposed distant from the proximal end of the bottom member,

wherein the lever lacks a hole through which the post extends.

2 – 4. (Canceled)

5. (Original) A nail clipper according to claim 1, wherein the bumper extends from about the proximal end to said edge and has a generally triangular shape whose apex is distant from the bottom elongated member.

6. (Previously presented) A nail clipper according to claim 17, wherein said lever includes a thumb accepting depression.

7. (Previously presented) A nail clipper according to claim 6, wherein the cutting edges are disposed at an angle to a central longitudinal axis of the top and bottom elongated members.

8. (Previously presented) A nail clipper according to claim 1, wherein the cutting edges are disposed at an angle to a central longitudinal axis of the top and bottom elongated members.

9 – 15. (Canceled)

16. (Withdrawn) A nail clipper according to claim 1, wherein the distal ends of the top and bottom elongated members are interconnected.

17. (Previously presented) A nail clipper according to claim 1, wherein the distal ends of the top and bottom elongated members are not interconnected.

18 – 19. (Canceled)

20. (Previously presented) A nail clipper according to claim 22, wherein the bumper extends from about the distal end to said edge and has a generally triangular shape whose apex is distant from the bottom elongated member.

21. (Canceled)

22. (Currently amended) A nail clipper comprising:

a top elongated members having a top surface, a bottom surface, a pair of side surfaces, and distal and proximal ends;

a bottom elongated member having a top surface, a bottom surface, a pair of side surfaces connecting the top and bottom surfaces, and distal and proximal ends;

the distal ends of the top and bottom elongated members not being interconnected;

a first post having a first end coupled to the top surface of the bottom elongated member adjacent the proximal end thereof and a second end located at a point above the top surface of the top elongated member, the post abutting and interconnected to a side surface of the top elongated member;

a second post having a first end and a second end, the first end of the second post being connected to the second end of the first post by a hinge, and the second end of the second post being located above the first end of the second post;

each of the proximal ends of the top and bottom members having a cutting edge disposed in opposing nail clipping relationship, wherein the cutting edges are disposed at an angle to the central longitudinal axis of the top and bottom elongated members;

a lever having a bottom surface coupled to the second end of the second post, the lever disposed and adapted to cause movement of the cutting edges between a cutting position and non-cutting position, the lever including a thumb accepting depression; and

a bumper disposed on the bottom surface of the bottom member, the bumper having an edge disposed distant from the proximal end of the bottom member,

wherein the lever lacks a hole through which the post extends.

23. (Currently amended) A nail clipper comprising:

a top elongated member having a top surface, a bottom surface, and distal and proximal ends;

a bottom elongated member having a top surface, a bottom surface, and distal and proximal ends;

each of the proximal ends of the top and bottom members having a cutting edge;

a first post having a first end coupled to the bottom elongated member and a second end located above the top elongated member;

a second post having a first end and a second end, the first end of the second post being connected to the second end of the first post by a hinge, and the second end of the second post being located above the first end of the second post; and

a lever having a bottom surface coupled to the second end of the second post, the lever disposed and adapted to cause movement of the cutting edges between a cutting position and a non-cutting position.

24. (Previously presented) A nail clipper according to claim 23, further comprising a bumper disposed on the bottom surface of the bottom member, the bumper having an edge disposed distant from the proximal end of the bottom member.

25. (Previously presented) A nail clipper according to claim 24, wherein the bumper extends from about the proximal end to said edge and has a generally triangular shape whose apex is distant from the bottom elongated member.

26. (Previously presented) A nail clipper according to claim 23, wherein said lever includes a thumb accepting depression.

27. (Previously presented) A nail clipper according to claim 23, wherein the cutting edges are disposed at an angle to a central longitudinal axis of the top and bottom elongated members.

28. (Withdrawn) A nail clipper according to claim 1, wherein the distal ends of the top and bottom elongated members are interconnected.

29. (Previously presented) A nail clipper according to claim 1, wherein the distal ends of the top and bottom elongated members are not interconnected.